

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1 and 3-14 are all the claims pending in the application. In response to the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims define patentable subject matter.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 13 and 14 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Park et al. (US Patent No. 5,993,178, hereafter “Park”). Claims 5, 6, 8, and 10-12 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Park in view of Penswick et al. (US Patent No. 5,920,133, hereafter “Penswick”).

In the previous Office Action, the Examiner asserted that Park discloses the feature “wherein a width of the first connecting part is in a range of approximately one half a width of the arm body and three times the width of the arm body”, and cited FIG. 4 of Park as allegedly disclosing this feature of dependent claim 2.

In the Amendment filed on May 8, 2007, Applicant submitted that there is no teaching or suggestion in Park that a width of the first connecting part is in a range of approximately one half a width of the arm body and three times the width of the arm body, as required in amended independent claim 1, and further, even assuming *arguendo* that the Examiner reads the claimed “first connecting part” on part 28b of FIG. 4 of Park, it is quite clear that a width of this part is not in a range of approximately one half a width of the arm body and three times the width of the arm body, as recited by amended independent claim 1.

In response, the Examiner merely asserts that:

Park clearly shows in figure 4, a width of the first connecting part is in a range of approximately one half a width of the arm body and three times the width of the arm body.²

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position and submits that the claims are not anticipated by Park.

First, it is unclear from the Examiner's rejection how the claimed first connecting part and second connecting parts are being read on FIG. 4 of Park. In other words, it is unclear which aspects or parts of FIG. 4 are considered by the Examiner to be a first connecting part and a second connecting part. However, if the first connecting part is considered to be the outer portion of the spring 28 of FIG. 4, it is quite clear that the outer portion of the spring does not vary in a range of approximately one half a width of the arm body and three times the width of the arm body.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 1 to read "wherein the width of the first connecting part is increased from the first end in a direction of forming of each of the arms, to a portion adjacent to an inward groove". Support for the claim amendment can be found at least on page 10 of the original specification. Applicant respectfully submits that this feature of amended claim 1 is neither taught nor suggested by the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, as well as dependent claims 3-14 should be allowable because the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims.

² Page 5 of the Office Action dated July 23, 2007.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark E. Wallerson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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